

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A television control system, comprising:

a host device having a transmitter and a receiver, the host device transmitter adapted to transmit a first signal; and

a television having a transmitter and a receiver, the television receiver adapted to receive the first signal, the television transmitter adapted to transmit a second signal receivable by the host device receiver.

2. The television control system of claim 1, wherein the host device and television transmitters and receivers are infrared devices.

3. The television control system of claim 1, wherein the host device is a personal computer.

4. The television control system of claim 1, wherein the host device is a television remote control unit.

5. The television control system of claim 1, wherein the first signal is a command signal instructing the television to perform a function, and wherein the second signal is a confirmation signal confirming that the television performed the function.

6. The television control system of claim 5, wherein the television  
further includes a processor and a timer, the processor directing the  
command signal to be transmitted within about 100 milliseconds to about 500  
milliseconds after the function is performed.

7. The television control system of claim 1, wherein the second  
signal is a 1200 baud, 8 bits byte, 1 start bit, 1 stop bit, no parity format  
packet modulated onto a 40 KHz carrier wave.

8. The television control system of claim 7, wherein the packet  
includes a command identifier byte, a data value byte, and a check sum byte.

9. The television control system of claim 1, wherein the host  
device further includes a processor adapted to control at least one peripheral  
device.

10. The television control system of claim 9, wherein the peripheral  
device is a video cassette recorder.

11. The television control system of claim 9, wherein the peripheral  
device is a digital video disc player.

12. The television control device of claim 1, wherein the host device  
further includes an input device.

13. The television control device of claim 12, wherein input  
2 device is a keyboard.

14. The television control device of claim 12, wherein input  
2 device is at least one switch provided on a television console.

15. The television control device of claim 12, wherein input  
2 device employs a computer protocol.

16. A method of controlling a television, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a command signal from a host device;  
modifying television operation based on the command signal;

and

transmitting a signal from the television to the host device  
confirming the modification of the television operation.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the transmission of the  
confirmation signal is performed between about 100 milliseconds and about  
500 milliseconds after the modification of the television operation.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the confirmation signal and  
the command signal comprise infrared signals.

19. A television control system, comprising:

a remote control device having an input apparatus and a transmitter, actuation of the input apparatus causing the transmitter to transmit a request signal;

a host device having a processor, a receiver, and a transmitter, receipt of the request signal by the host device receiver causing the processor to generate a command signal transmitted by the host device transmitter; and

at least one television having a processor, a receiver, and a transmitter, receipt of the command signal by the television receiver causing the television processor to perform a function, performance of the function causing the television transmitter to transmit a confirmation signal receivable by the host device.

20. The television control system of claim 19, further including a plurality of televisions each having a processor, receiver and transmitter, each television receiver receiving the command signal and each transmitter transmitting a confirmation signal upon performance of the function.

21. The television control system of claim 19, wherein the request, command, and confirmation signals are infrared signals.

2 22. The television control system of claim 19, further including at least one peripheral device generating a request signal, the host device being responsive to the request signal.

2 23. The television control system of claim 22, wherein the peripheral device is a video cassette recorder.

2 24. The television control system of claim 22, wherein the peripheral device is a digital video disc player.

25. A television, comprising:  
a tuner adapted to receive a television broadcast signal;  
a monitor adapted to display television images based on the  
television broadcast signal;  
an input device adapted to generate a request signal; and  
a closed loop controller, the closed loop controller adapted to  
receive the request signal, perform a television function based on the request  
signal, and transmit a confirmation signal when the television function is  
performed.

26. The television of claim 25, wherein the closed loop controller  
prevents performance of further television functions until the confirmation  
signal for an immediately prior television function is successfully performed.

27. The television of claim 25, wherein the request and confirmation  
signals are infrared signals and wherein the closed loop control system  
includes an infrared receiver, a processor, and an infrared transmitter, the  
infrared receiver receiving the request signal, the infrared transmitter  
transmitting the confirmation signal.

28. The television of claim 25, wherein the input device is a switch  
mounted to the television.

29. The television of claim 25, wherein the input device is a remote  
2 control unit.

30. The television of claim 25, wherein the input device is a host  
2 computer.